

Living History

NEWSLETTER October 2016

Living History Open Afternoon & AGM

The *Living History Group* is fifteen years old this year and is celebrating some of its achievements with an Open Afternoon at **Yarpole Parish Hall on Saturday October 22nd, from 2pm until 4pm.**

We will have on display photographs, parish records, house history details, articles on many aspects of local history recent and ancient, including a display of the history of Yarpole W.I., and many more items from our collection.

We will also be showcasing the new audio-visual equipment in the village hall with CDs and DVDs.

Please come along to celebrate all the hard work of many villagers and see if you or your house feature in any of our resources!

Free admission and Tea & Cakes

There will be a short Annual General Meeting 2.00 - 2.15pm including the election of committee to replace any members who are resigning their posts. This will include the election of a new Chairperson and a new Newsletter Editor who are both stepping down after many years in their respective posts.

Please contact Rhianon Turrell on 01568 780677 or rhianonturrell@btinternet.com for further details.

Articles

The following articles accompany this edition of the *Newsletter*:

- *Russell Harry Price* by Ron Shaw
- *Yarpole Women's Institute 1920-1995* by Rhianon Turrell

We always welcome proposals for articles. Please contact the *Newsletter* editor - John Turrell on 01568 780677 if you would like to discuss possible articles or if you have contributions for the Newsletter.

Copyright

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Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2016 are now **overdue**. They can be paid to Audrey Bott either by leaving them at the village shop addressed to her or sending them to Audrey at Horizons, Green Lane, Yarpole (tel:01568780489).

Cheques should be made out to "Living History" for £7.50.

If you have not paid your subscription you will be asked if you wish to continue receiving copies of the Newsletter and accompanying articles. If you do not wish to receive paper copies of future editions of the Newsletter please let Audrey Bott or Rhianon Turrell (01568 780677) know.

The production and printing of these paper copies is the main cost born by the group along with displays at various functions and the hire of the hall for meetings such as the AGM.

Russell Harry Price

Living History

Russell was born in Cook County, Chicago in 1890 the first-born child of Henry & Sophia Price, nee Tuttsell. His parents had married in Leominster in 1886 and had emigrated to the USA sometime around 1889.

The family returned to England about 1903 and finally resettled in Yarpole by 1911, the 1911 Census Record shows them living at Ivy Cottage, Green Lane. However Russell is not living at home.

His military records show he enlisted at Hereford into the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry and was given Regimental Number 9039.

The record also shows that he joined the 2nd Battalion which had returned to England from India in November 1914 and was transferred to the 80th Brigade as part of the 27th Division.

Russell's unit was posted to France on the 21st of December 1915, landing at Le Havre. He was killed in action on the 2nd March 1915 while serving with the 2nd Battalion.



He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.



The Ypres Memorial, Belgium

Yarpole Women's Institute 1920-1995

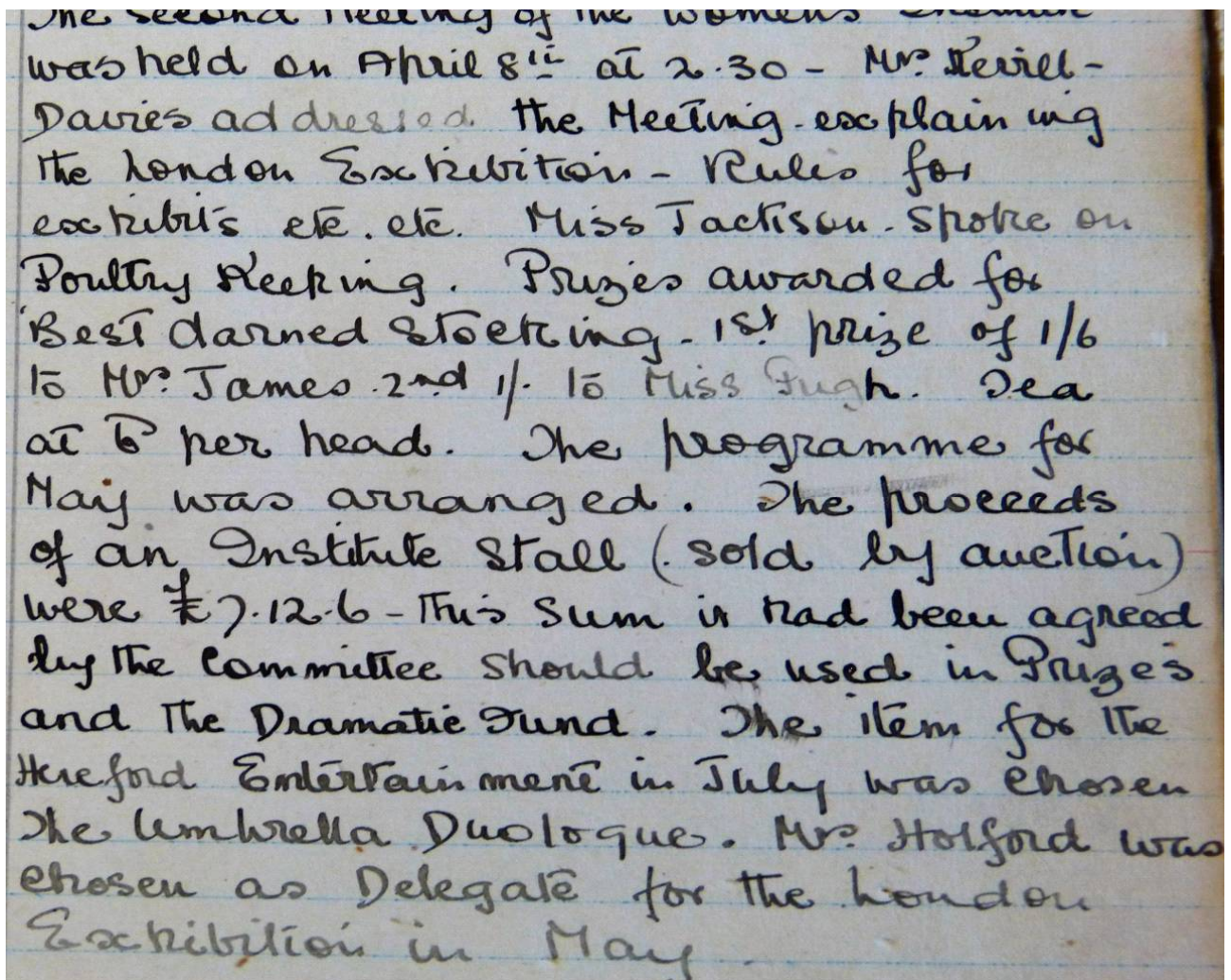


Yarpole had one of the earliest W.I.s in the county and had a vital role in the village throughout its history. It is now 21 years since it closed and it seems appropriate to mark this by collecting together some of its surviving history. There will inevitably be people in the parish who can add more to this so this will probably have to be amended at a later date.

The first W.I. In Britain was formed in 1915 under the auspices of the Agricultural Organisation Society and it quickly became part of the war effort with support from the food department of the Board of Agriculture.

In Yarpole and surrounding villages there were other agricultural organisations already helping to educate and support men and women in the best ways of growing and preserving food crops.

The first meeting of Yarpole W.I. is recorded on March 11th 1920 in the Parish room with 70 in attendance. Mrs. Kevill-Davies, the president, spoke about the work of the W.I. The competition was for the best darned hole in a stocking. First prize was 1/6d second 1/-. "An excellent entertainment was provided by local people organised by Mrs Connolly." By the second meeting they were up and running in normal efficient W.I. routines and taking part in everything available.

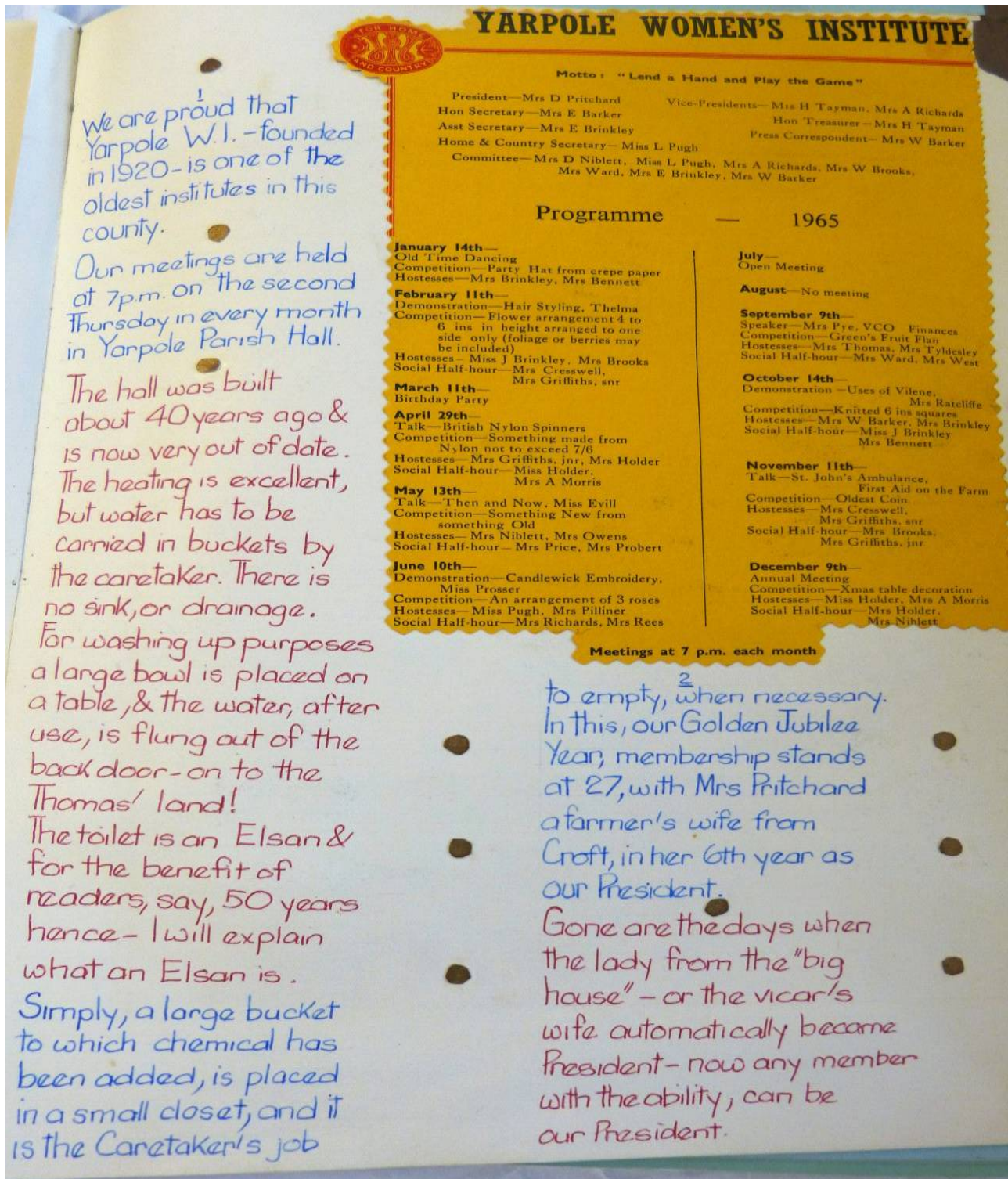


The second meeting of the Women's Institute was held on April 8th at 2.30 - Mrs Kevill-Davies addressed the Meeting explaining the London Exhibition - Rules for exhibits etc. etc. Miss Jackson spoke on Poultry Rearing. Prizes awarded for 'Best darned Stocking' - 1st prize of 1/6 to Mrs James 2nd 1/- to Miss Fugh. Tea at 6 per head. The programme for May was arranged. The proceeds of an Institute Stall (sold by auction) were £7.12.6 - This sum it had been agreed by the Committee should be used in Prizes and The Dramatic Fund. The item for the Hereford Entertainment in July was chosen the Umbrella Duologue. Mr. Holford was chosen as Delegate for the London Exhibition in May.

(Courtesy Hereford Archives)

Outings in the 1920s and 30s included trips to Aberystwyth and Bournville. Classes included glove making and country dancing. They took part in the jam making efforts of WW2 and received a thoughtful letter from Australia in 1947 promising a food parcel. In 1956 they held their first flower and produce show.

They produced a fantastic scrapbook of life in the village in 1965 which along with the minute books and other records is held in Herefordshire Archives.



(Courtesy Hereford Archives)

The Yarpole W.I was particularly active in the 1970s, celebrating their Golden Jubilee in 1970



Three founder members of Yarpole WI were present when the branch held their golden jubilee party at the Village Hall. President Mrs D. Pritchard cut the birthday cake and was joined by the three oldest members for this photograph. They are (left to right) Mrs S. A. Morris, Mrs A. Richards and Miss L. Pugh.

(Courtesy Hereford Archives)

They took part in drama productions such as Tyrolean Tapestry, as the Gaiety Girls,



and London by Lamplight which featured the W.I. Choir below.



They were instrumental in the placing of a bench in the centre of Yarpole to celebrate the Silver Jubilee in 1977 and in bulb and tree planting in the village.



In 1983 they produced a scrapbook of wildlife in the parish which has delightful hand illustrations and records the wildlife in some detail. This is also held at Herefordshire Archives.



(Courtesy Hereford Archives)

They had a busy programme of talks & visits up until their closure on November 9th 1995 during their 75th anniversary year, when numbers had dwindled and they voted 12 to 3 to close the institute.

The Living History Group hold various artefacts from the W.I. including a tablecloth for the presidents table, a sash from the last president Iris Lawson, kindly donated by her son, plus trophies and photos from a variety of members.

Some of these items will be on display at the A.G.M. in October.

Rhianon Turrell September 2016